

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STRE-00 DOEE-00 SSO-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 IO-13 EA-10 /124 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, TH
SUBJECT: US/THAILAND BILATERAL

1. MTN DEL (CULBERT, GRAEF) MET WITH THAILAND DELEGATION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE PROK IN GENEVA. PRDK OUTLINED SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENT PROBLEMS WHICH CONSTRAINED THAILAND'S ABILITY TO MAKE REDUCTIONS IN PRESENT TARIFFS. HE ALSO SAID US/THAILAND BILATERAL FCN TREATY SIGNED IN THE 60'S WAS A CONSTRAINING FEATURE TO FULL ACCESSION OF THAILAND TO THE GATT. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT NATIONAL TREATMENT GIVEN TO THE US UNDER THE AGREEMENT CREATED CONCERN BECAUSE UPON ACCESSION THAILAND WOULD HAVE TO GRANT SUCH TREATMENT TO OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES. HE STATED THAT
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CURRENT BILATERAL EXPIRED SOMETIME NEXT YEAR AND IF NATIONAL TREATMENT OBLIGATION WERE CHANGED TO A MOST FAVORED NATION COMMITMENT, THAILAND WOULD HAVE LESS PROBLEM WITH FULLY ACCEDING TO THE GATT.

2. MTN DEL SAID WE WOULD REPORT PROK'S CONCERN BUT WONDERED IF THERE WASN'T SOME BASIC MISUNDERSTANDING; BILATERAL

FCN TREATIES NORMALLY DEAL WITH RIGHTS OF ESTABLISHMENT AND THUS CREATED NO SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH REGARD TO GATT COMMERCIAL POLICY OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT. WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THAILAND DOES HAVE PRESENT BALANCE OF PAYMENT PROBLEMS BUT POINTED TO THE FLEXIBILITY UNDER THE GATT TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS. WE ALSO NOTED THAT STAGING OF REDUCTIONS PROVIDED FLEXIBILITY WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.

3. WE OUTLINED CURRENT STATUS OF THE MTN WITH EMPHASIS ON THE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION BY DECEMBER 15. WE INDICATED US DID ATTACH SIGNIFICANCE TO THAILAND'S DECISION TO PROVISIONALLY ACCEDE TO THE GATT BUT WERE CONCERNED THAT THAILAND HAD ONLY IDENTIFIED PRODUCTS IT WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE IN IT'S OFFER RATHER THAN IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC OFFERS. WE EMPHASIZED THAILAND WAS REQUESTING CONCESSIONS FROM THE U.S. ON MANY SENSITIVE ITEMS INCLUDING CANNED PINEAPPLES, JUTE CORDAGE AND TEXTILES AND THE LACK OF A SPECIFIC THAI OFFER WAS PREVENTING PROGRESS. PROK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THAILAND COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC BUT ASKED THAT THE US BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN OUR REQUESTS POINTING TO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY OF RESPONDING TO U.S. REQUESTS ON TURKEY PRODUCTS AND RAISINS. THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED TO MEET THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5 FOR A MORE DETAILED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE MTN DEL WITH GUIDANCE ON US/THAILAND BILATERAL TREATY TO WHICH PROK HAS REFERRED AND ADVISE AS TO WHETHER THERE IS SUBSTANCE TO PROK'S PROBLEMS WITH THIS TREATY VIS A VIS GATT ACCESSION. THAIS (OR PROK) MAY SEE MTN NEGOTIATIONS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME LEVERAGE VIS A VIS US ON THIS MATTER.

5. DRAFTED BY GRAEF AND CULBERT. MCDONALD

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